IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

MATTHEW ESCALANTE et al
S.J.E, a minor child &
S.G.E, a minor child
Plaintiffs

v.

CHIEF JUDGE CHARLES DREOGE
Chief Judge of the Johnson County District Ct.
Defendant

Case 2:23-CV02536

WHISTLEBLOWER MISCONDUCT AFFIDAVIT OF MATTHEW ESCALANTE JOHNSON COUNTY CHIEF JUDGE SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL INQUIRY PANEL OCT 3.
(Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746)

I, Matthew Escalante, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the following is true and correct on this day of September 15, 2025:

I am the pro se Plaintiff in the above-captioned action. I am over the age of eighteen and am competent to make this declaration. The statements herein are based on my own personal knowledge of the facts and events described.

I have direct and substantial evidence of gross judicial misconduct, abuse of power, and actions taken in the clear absence of all jurisdiction by the Defendant, Johnson County Chief Judge Charles Droege.

In my capacity as a citizen and litigant, I have acted as a whistleblower by reporting this misconduct to the appropriate state authority, the Kansas Commission on Judicial Conduct ("the Commission"), for investigation.

Specifically, I have filed, and the Commission has received, the following formal complaints detailing Judge Droege's misconduct:

a. Complaint #3686 against Chief Judge Charles Droege, filed on or about June 16, 2025, detailing the Chief Judge's coercion, intimidation and manipulation/interference of and over the Franklin County court system, the Franklin County Chief Judge and Ottawa Attorney Albert Harris III. Multiple defendants across county lines were harmed, and all of this to wrongfully imprison the whistleblower plaintiff.
b. Complaint #3687 against Chief Judge Charles Droege, filed on or about July 10, 2025, which details the same Chief Judge Droege in direct violation of constitutional and state laws of habeas corpus. Judge Droege intentionally refused to hear a habeas corpus case of the Plaintiff's. Habeas laws of Kansas mandate prompt hearing and determination of such a case. And Constitutional directive of Article I, Section 9, Clause 2, state the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended. Plaintiff's habeas case JO-2025-CV-000008 still shows as suspended in JoCo public records since January 3, 2025 a suspension of over 8 months, shown as fact. Chief Judge however still took the Plaintiff's $196.00 filing fee and never ruled in the case.
c. Complaint #3688 against Chief Judge Taylor J. Wine, filed on or about July 7, 2025, which details Judge Droege's extra-jurisdictional influence and manipulation of the Franklin County justice system and district court.
d. Complaint #3689 against Chief Judge Charles Droege, filed on or about August 1, 2025, which details Droege's closing of Plaintiff's Johnson County case 24CV03119. This case is a Kansas Open Records Lawsuit. Judge Droege has taken the case and closed it without placing rulings or orders in it and refusing to hear motions or grant hearings in the case. $196.00 filing fee taken again by Droege.
e. Complaint #3690 against Chief Judge Charles Droege, filed on or about August 1, 2025, which details the Chief Judge having closed yet another case 23CV06700, of the plaintiffs without placing rulings or order in them entirely. $196.00 filing fee yet again taken by Droege.

The Commission has formally acknowledged receipt of these whistleblower complaints and, as confirmed in correspondence from the Commission's Secretary Dogu, has assigned all five complaints to an Inquiry Panel review at its meeting scheduled for October 3, 2025.

Evidence supporting these serious allegations of judicial misconduct, retaliation, and illegal silencing of a whistleblower has been previously filed and is memorialized as part of the official record in this federal case, specifically as Documents 37 through 45.

The before mentioned lettered points of (b)(d) and (e), or also Judicial Complaints 3687, 3689 and 3690, have enough facts to stand independently on their own merits, that shows the Johnson County Chief Judge is moving with an illegal prejudice against the Plaintiff, that is in violation of multiple Kansas judicial codes of conduct.

This affidavit is submitted to inform the Court, Kansas Media and Citizens of the State of Kansas of my ongoing whistleblower activities and the upcoming formal review of Defendant's conduct by the Kansas Commission on Judicial Conduct, which corroborates the serious nature of the claims that were asserted in this action, but dismissed by the federal court, while also placing a filing restriction onto the Plaintiff in parallel 2:23-CV02471, doc 52.

Plaintiff will not tolerate being victimized further by the Chief Judge Droege's misconduct. Plaintiff has a right to alert the proper authorities of such judicial misconduct under Kansas Supreme Court rules. Plaintiff has a right to demand cessation of misconduct in his public cases. That misconduct has also consequently victimized Plaintiff's 2 children. No father would tolerate such actions.

The attached exhibits A, B, C, D and E, are the official correspondence from the Kansas Commission on Judicial Conduct, of the upcoming inquiry panel review on October 3, 2025 against Johnson County's Chief Judge Charles Droege. Plaintiff is under no confidentiality clauses on disclosure of such information. Misconduct occurring in Plaintiffs cases is likely to be occurring in other cases in which Droege presides. Retaliation on the Plaintiff is illegal. The Public has a Right To Know.

I declare under penalty of federal perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on September 15, 2025

Matthew Escalante
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of this affidavit was filed in the CM/ECF system in the District of Kansas, in which a copy was sent to all parties in the proceeding. Copies also sent to the following media inboxes:

Matthew Escalante
Pro Se Plaintiff

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